

# WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1854.

Congress did not sit yesterday, nor will it to-day—both Houses having on Thursday adjourned to Monday.

If Government could take a hint from a private source, we should think it would find the suggestion in the annexed paragraph from a Charleston paper worthy of adoption. The same thing, to be sure, was recommended in our own journal some months ago, when the Treasury commenced buying up its own six per cent. stock at twenty-one per cent. premium, but the Department could not take such for want of legal authority; and the advice, moreover, came from a questionable source. Coming, however, from a source politically friendly, as this does, Congress might, without derogation we think, adopt the plan, which as a relief measure is even more desirable now than before.

"We would recommend to Congress the enactment of a law authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to establish at each office throughout the United States a board of discount officers, whose duty it should be to loan out to any one the public funds of the Government, not exceeding two-thirds the amount in the vaults of each office at six per cent., on ninety days promissory notes, secured by United States six per cent. stocks, at their par value in the market, provided said stock is selling at par or above it."

## POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

We give, in this day's paper, all the material portions of the Postmaster General's Annual Report, omitting only the appendix and some of its tabular statements. This exposé of the vast and ramified operations of that great beneficent Department of the Government on whose energy, sagacity, and vigilance the business of the country and its social and domestic comfort and satisfaction are so materially dependent, will possess interest for almost every intelligent citizen. We do not believe that the duties of any Department of the Government are more arduous, or are discharged with more intelligence, assiduity, or success, than this one.

## THE ARMY AND THE NAVY.

The President, in urging in his Message an increase of the Army, refers to measures of reform in its organic arrangement and administration. He favors an increase of the compensation of officers, the bill of the last session to raise the pay of the rank and file having had a beneficial influence. He favors a retired list, as best promoting the efficiency of the Army by the promotion of those most fit for active duty, "without wounding the just pride of men who by past services have established a claim to high consideration." We believe this would be an acceptable arrangement to the Army, and not objectionable to the people. The national gratitude is strong enough to give the measure a trial.

In adhering to the impolicy on the part of the United States in agreeing to give up altogether the resort to privateers in time of war, the President suggests the inequality which exists between our Navy and that of Great Britain, which is at least ten times as large as that of the United States. A conflict would be a very unequal one even with a secondary naval power. The President dwells more upon the necessity of ample provision for the discipline and improvement of the character of seamen than upon a large addition to our naval force. He seconds the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy for a gradual increase of that arm of the national defense.

## OUR AFFAIRS WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

There seems to be but a small matter remaining to be adjusted between the United States and Great Britain, and that is as to the boundary line of the Territory of Washington, (the northern part of Oregon,) adjoining the British possessions on the Pacific. In the commission proposed by the President, for the settlement of what may lead to "serious disputes," it is contemplated to extinguish the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company to the navigation of the Columbia river. All else appears to have been amicably adjusted with Great Britain.

## RESISTANCE TO TAXES IN OHIO.

Great excitement prevails in portions of Ohio, particularly in the cities, in regard to the construction of a section of the line imposing taxes. It appears that debts due to individuals are taxed, and the Auditor of State refuses to allow deductions for officers, &c. It is calculated that one hundred millions of dollars will be added to the assessment by this construction. More than two thousand of the best business men of all classes in Cincinnati have pledged themselves to resist the tax, and a mass meeting was held at Cincinnati on the 2d instant to concert measures of resistance. At this meeting they resolved to "pay no tax upon credit, without the lawful offset or deduction, until the same shall have been declared the true intent and meaning of the statute, after full hearing before the highest judicatory known to our laws." Addresses were delivered by Judge Walker, Mr. Staabery, and others, strongly advocating the movement.

## MONEY AND BUSINESS SPECULATIONS.

A BETTER FEELING.—The Boston Journal says that "the opinion is gaining ground among the merchants and traders of that city that the present depression in business results from temporary causes which will soon cease to act. Business, which has been too much inflated, is being rapidly contracted within its proper limits. Importations have greatly fallen off. Railroad enterprises at the West, which have drawn largely upon our moneyed resources, are at a stand. There is no speculation in real estate or fancy stocks. The demand for money, which is now very great from those who have maturing contracts, must become less and less urgent, and the point will soon be reached when the supply of capital will fully equal the legitimate wants of trade. Many of our largest houses have seen the darkest hours of the present crisis, and are now rapidly progressing 'out of the woods.' Others will soon be in a safe position, and after the first of January the improvement in financial matters will, we feel confident, be marked and permanent." This is the condition of the leading Atlantic cities generally. There is good ground to hope that the worst has been experienced, and the prospect is brightening.—*Baltimore American.*

THE MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON.—In answer to various inquiries as to the probable time for the return of the Mediterranean squadron, we cannot do better than state the substance of the remarks of the Secretary of the Navy in reference to it, that the Cumberland, the flag ship, will return early in the spring, and the St. Louis and Levant early in the ensuing year.

THE HON. RAMON AZPURA, Minister of Venezuela, has obtained leave of his Government to be temporarily absent from the United States, and we learn that he will shortly depart for Caracas.—*Star.*

FATTENING CHICKENS.—The Albany Register says that fowls or chickens may be fattened in four or five days by feeding them three times daily with rice boiled in milk, always fresh, as soon as possible, from the fatness. Give them clear water to drink. By this method the flesh is made particularly white.

## THE BOULE CORRESPONDENCE.

Finding in the New York Times, received last Wednesday, the Correspondence, transmitted to Congress by the President on Monday, relating to Mr. SOULÉ's recent difficulty with the French Government, we thought it might gratify the curiosity of our readers by immediately laying it before them. It was prepared in the letter of our Paris correspondent, published on the 27th ultimo.

### Minister Mason to Secretary Marcy.

LEGATION UNITED STATES, PARIS, OCTOBER 30, 1854.  
(No. 87.)  
SIR: An incident of very grave import has transpired. In my No. 36 I communicated the intelligence that Mr. SOULÉ, United States Minister to Spain, had been prohibited, by alleged orders of the Emperor's Government, from entering France.

That I might, without delay, ascertain the facts of this extraordinary and unusual proceeding, I sent Mr. PIATT, Secretary of this Legation, to Dover to communicate with Mr. SOULÉ. He left Paris in the evening of the 25th, and on his arrival, finding that Mr. SOULÉ had left Dover, he proceeded to London, where he had an interview with that gentleman. The order forbidding his entering France was wholly unknown to Mr. SOULÉ, and he assures me that neither by deed nor by words, uttered or written, had he afforded a shadow of excuse for the wanton measure which, in violation of his rights as a citizen of the North American Republic, and of his privileges as one of its accredited Ministers, has interdicted to him a passage through France on his way back to Madrid.

I lost no time after the return of Mr. PIATT in addressing to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, under date of the 26th instant, a communication, of which I send you a copy. It was sent to the Foreign Office on the 28th, and I have not yet received an answer.

It is impossible not to regard this humiliating indignity as deeply injurious, when it is remembered that Mr. SOULÉ, acting under your orders, has recently spent more than two months in Paris; and while sojourning here neither he nor I received any intimation that his presence was objected to by the French Government.

Seeing no adequate cause to justify an unfriendly feeling towards the United States, I cannot but hope that the French Government, finding that as acted on erroneous information, will at once retract this grievous wrong. If in this I am disappointed, earnest as I have been since I have represented our country at this Court to cultivate the most cordial relations of amity between the two countries, I must consider this incident of such grave importance that it is not impossible I shall regard it to be my duty to terminate my mission by demanding my passports. I will not lose a moment in keeping you advised of the reply to my note and of the progress of events in connection with this most extraordinary affair.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. Y. MASON.

### Minister Mason to Drouyn de L'Huys.

LEGATION DES ETATS UNIS, PARIS, OCTOBER 27, 1854.  
MR. DROUYN DE LHUYS, Minister of Foreign Affairs:

SIR: I have received information that on the 24th instant Mr. SOULÉ, on his arrival at Calais, was shown the orders of the Emperor, which, in the name of the Emperor, had been given by the Imperial Government that he should not be permitted to enter France, and that by these orders he was compelled to return to England, where he now remains. Mr. SOULÉ is a citizen of the United States, accredited as an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from his country to the Court of Spain. He had, in executing the orders of his Government, visited Paris and London, and was returning to his post at Madrid by the most usual and convenient route through the territories of France when he was thus arrested. I cannot but hope that your Excellency will find the determination of the Emperor's Government to deny him a privilege awarded by all nations to citizens or subjects of friendly Powers travelling under their protection; and especially those who are clothed with the sacred character of public Ministers; for he was actually arrested in his journey some hours before he was to have reached the frontier of France, and that he should be thus treated in regard to him which you did me the honor to give me in the afternoon of the 24th instant.

I authorized by the Emperor's Government it cannot but be regarded by the Government and people of the United States as a most unusual and unjust proceeding, and one which is calculated to excite the indignation of the nation. I am authorized to inform you that the Emperor's Government has been so treated, while relations of amity and peace exist and are cherished by the United States with France. My Government will be filled with painful anxiety until satisfactory information in reply to this inquiry can be communicated. I cannot but hope that your Excellency will furnish me with such explanations as may relieve the Minister from the position in which he has thus been placed, and which will enable me to allay the unpleasant feelings which the intelligence of this occurrence will occasion in the United States.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to your Excellency the assurances of the high consideration with which I am your humble and obedient servant.  
J. Y. MASON.

### M. Drouyn de L'Huys to Mr. Mason.

[TRANSLATION.]  
PARIS, NOVEMBER 1, 1854.

SIR: I have received the letter which you did me the honor to write me, under date of the 24th instant, in which you ask me for some explanations as to the motives of the determination taken with regard to Mr. SOULÉ. I must, in the first place, state the manner in which things have occurred.

The Minister of the Interior had to give directions that Mr. SOULÉ should not be allowed to pass through France without the knowledge of the Government of the Emperor. The instructions of Mr. Billant were strictly followed, and carried out with the utmost propriety by the Commissary of Police at Calais. Accordingly, that functionary did not invite Mr. SOULÉ to embark again for England; he left him perfectly free to remain at Calais until he should receive orders from Paris, which he was about to request. It was simply a question of waiting patiently for one day at the utmost; but Mr. SOULÉ, after saying that he did not expect any regard on the part of the French Government, and that he would not wait, proceeded to leave Calais, and went back to England immediately. The Minister of the Interior did, nevertheless, forward his definitive instructions to Calais by telegraph, and I can do nothing better than transcribe them here:

"If Mr. SOULÉ presents himself for the purpose of entering France, you will give him to understand that the Emperor's Government has no objection to his passing through France; but it makes no opposition to his passing through in order to go to Spain; and you will offer him to give his passport for that destination."

Now, perceive, sir, that the Government of the Emperor has not sought, as you seem to believe, to prevent an entry of the United States from traversing French territory in order to repair to his post and acquit himself of the commission of which he was charged by his Government; but between that simple passage and the stay of a foreigner who, besides his mission, has been allowed to have attracted the attention of the authorities where duty it is to preserve public order among us, there is a difference which the Minister of the Interior was bound to appreciate. If Mr. SOULÉ had been going directly to Madrid, the route by France was open to him. If it was his intention to go to Paris by way of Calais, and to stay there, that privilege was not accorded him. It was, therefore, necessary to consent him as to his intentions, and it was himself who would not allow time to do so.

Our laws are strict with respect to foreigners. The Minister of the Interior cannot show his rigorous provisions to be executed when it is shown him that there is any necessity for such action; and even then he makes use of discretionary power, which the Government of the Emperor has never allowed to be discussed. The quality of foreigner on the part of Mr. SOULÉ placed him within the scope of the measures of which he was the object; and that remained to be reconciled with the measure with the public character with which he was invested. You will acknowledge, sir, that this is what we have done, and that the Government of the United States, with which Government his Majesty the Emperor has a heart to cultivate the relations of friendship and amity, has been so treated as in the person of one of its representatives.

The Minister of the United States in Paris is free, I repeat it, to pass through France. Mr. SOULÉ, who has no mission to fulfill near the Emperor, and who, conformably with the doctrine sanctioned by the law of nations, would not be allowed to pass through France, is not permitted to enable him to represent in his native land the country of his adoption—Mr. SOULÉ, as a simple private individual, comes within the pale of the common law which has been applied to him, and he cannot lay claim to any privileges.

Accept, sir, the assurance of high consideration with which I have the honor to remain your very humble and obedient servant,  
DROUYN DE LHUYS.

MR. MASON, United States Minister.

### Mr. Mason to Secretary Marcy.

LEGATION UNITED STATES, PARIS, NOVEMBER 11, 1854.

(No. 41.)  
SIR: In my despatch No. 87, I stated the circumstances at Calais by which Mr. SOULÉ was interrupted in

the prosecution of his journey to Spain; and with that despatch I sent you a copy of my letter to M. Drouyn de L'Huys, Minister of Foreign Affairs, of 27th of October last. On the 1st of November I received from his Excellency a note in reply to mine of that date. I sent the original, retaining a copy for the files of the Legation. Until the receipt of this note I had understood the prohibition of Mr. SOULÉ's entering France to be unequalled; and such too was the understanding of that gentleman; for by reason of its execution he had to return to England.

On the 6th instant I addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs a communication, of which I send you here with a copy. I have received no reply, and presume that it will conclude a correspondence which I felt it to be my duty to open without waiting for special instructions from the President. The result, I am happy to say, is that no impediment exists to the passage of the American Minister accredited to the Spanish Government through France to his place of official duty. This is recognized, beyond doubt, as a principle of the law of nations interesting to every country, and of diplomatic missions, whose influence in promoting peace and preventing war relations in the family of nations is universally acknowledged.

I communicated to Mr. SOULÉ, at London, my correspondence with the Emperor's Government; and on the morning of the 9th instant he arrived in Paris, and left on the 11th for Bordeaux, where he expects to be received by the United States steam-ship San Jacinto, in which he will take passage for Spain.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. Y. MASON.

Hon. WM. L. MARCY, Secretary of State.

### Mr. Mason to M. Drouyn de L'Huys.

LEGATION UNITED STATES, PARIS, NOVEMBER 6, 1854.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 1st of November, in reply to mine of the 27th of October ultimo. I have carefully examined your narrative of circumstances which led to the arrest of Mr. SOULÉ, and I am happy to find that it is quite manifest that the order under which the Commissary of Police at Calais acted, when he interdicted Mr. SOULÉ's entrance into France, did not present to the American Minister any alternative but to return to England, and remain in Calais, virtually under arrest, until the further orders of the Emperor's Government could be received. I think your Excellency will concur in the opinion that he could not, consistently with the dignity of his Government, remain on the frontier of France—there situated, awaiting orders which he had no reason to believe would be more favorable than the one which denied him entrance upon French territory. I cannot, therefore, deeply regret that the precise telegraphic order which your Excellency has incorporated in your letter to me did not precede Mr. SOULÉ's arrival at Calais. That order, I am pleased to find, removes all impediment to the free passage of the American Minister accredited to the Court of Spain through the territory of France.

I have not failed to observe the declaration that Mr. SOULÉ's residence in France will not be authorized by the Emperor's Government. As his public duties require him to reside in Spain, he has no intention, as far as I am informed, of remaining or residing in France. He has, therefore, forborne entering into any examination of the reasons suggested for the determination to deny him the privilege, or of the manner in which he has been notified of the purpose of the Imperial Government.

I have observed also the distinction which your Excellency makes between individual citizens and Ministers. Without undertaking to inquire how far such distinction can be maintained—for it is not necessary to the occasion to guard myself against being misunderstood if I pass it in silence—I must say that, in my opinion, one who is a public Minister, passing through the territory of a friendly nation on his way to his post, is entitled to the same privileges under the solemn sanction of the law of nations, about which, if it should become necessary to discuss them, I feel assured that I will not have the misfortune to find conflicting views held by one so enlightened as your Excellency.

I have much satisfaction in receiving the assurance, given in the emphatic declaration of your Excellency, that the Minister of the United States to Spain is at liberty to traverse France towards his post, and obeying the commission with which he is charged by his Government. The recognition of this right is all that I have asked of the Emperor's Government in the premises, and on this, as on all other occasions, I receive with pleasure the assurance that the Government of his Imperial Majesty has at heart relations of friendship and esteem with the Government of the United States; feeling which, it is my constant desire and effort to cherish and strengthen them.

I will hasten to communicate this correspondence to my Government, and will also inform the American Minister to Spain, who is still in London, of the result which has been arrived at.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to your Excellency assurance of the very high consideration with which I am your obedient, humble servant,  
J. Y. MASON.

### THE SAUT STE. MARIE CANAL.

This work is nearly completed, and will be entirely so within a few weeks. The opening of the spring (says the Detroit Free Press) will mark a new era in the history of the Upper Peninsula. The great impediment to the development of its resources and to the general prosperity of the country will have been removed. The canal is of sufficient capacity to admit the largest vessels that float the lakes. Lakes Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, Huron, Michigan, and Superior are made a perfect navigable chain. A vessel may clear from the head of the latter for Liverpool, Havre, or Canton, and, passing through the river St. Lawrence to the ocean, reach either port without breaking bulk. Is not the achievement a proud one?

### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The New York Courier says that the commercial reaction has fairly reached the import trade, and it gives the following figures as an important indication of the progress of contraction in this branch of business:

A table showing the receipts of duties at several ports in November of the years 1854 and 1853.			
	1854.	1853.	
New York.....	\$1,556,000	\$3,000,000	
Philadelphia.....	219,000	310,000	
Boston.....	476,000	839,000	
Baltimore.....	63,000	46,000	
New Orleans.....	32,000	355,000	
Total.....	\$2,650,000	\$4,520,000	
Decrease in 1854.....		\$1,870,000	

The official returns for Boston come down only to the 25th and for New Orleans only to the 18th of November. The receipts for the remaining portions of the month are estimated by the average of the time covered by the official reports. The decrease, compared with the corresponding month of 1853, is equal to 40 per cent.

The exports from New York to foreign ports for the month of November show a falling off in comparison with the shipments for the same month of last year. The total export for the month, exclusive of specie, was \$6,100,230. The total exports since January 1st, exclusive of specie, amount to \$58,358,875; specie included, the total is \$95,460,117. This shows a gain including specie, but a falling-off in the shipments of merchandise and produce of \$1,152,917 as compared with the corresponding eleven months of last year. Compared with the same period of 1852 it shows an increase of \$15,452,539.

OPERATIONS OF THE PHILADELPHIA MINT.—During the past month the purchase of silver at the Philadelphia mint amounted to \$405,900. The coinage of gold for the same time, principally in gold dollars and quarter eagles, was \$629,298. The coinage of silver, principally in half dollars and dimes, amounted to \$298,000. The receipts of California gold, amounted to only \$825,200, and from other sources to \$4,153. This falling off is attributed to the operations of the New York assay office and the California mint. Total receipts of gold at the Philadelphia mint for the last seven months \$32,515,929, against \$48,298,552 in the same time last year.

VOTE FOR GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK.—The official canvass of the whole State shows Myron H. Clark's majority to be three hundred and nineteen. Several hundred defective ballots were returned, but not counted. If those apparently designed for Clark and Seymour were included in the count, Mr. Clark would still have a majority over Seymour of 150 votes.

DECIDED BY AN VOTE.—The Chicago Times says that the official returns of the vote of every county in the seventh district of Illinois have been received, and that they show a majority of one vote for Mr. ALLEN, the present Democratic Representative in Congress from that district.

ANOTHER BANK DEFAULTER.—A teller in one of the oldest banking houses at Chicago is said to have disappeared, leaving a defaulter to an amount ranging from \$40,000 to \$70,000. It is supposed to have been squandered in gambling.

## CLOUDS IN THE SOUTH.

It is evident that the Democracy is to have trouble at the South as well as at the North, and that the most disastrous consequences to the party are not only anticipated, but have already commenced. The result of the election at New Orleans for a State Senator and two Representatives has been announced. The Democratic candidate met with a signal defeat in what one of the editors terms a "mimic contest," but which, by his own reasoning, is of much consequence. The Louisiana Courier says:

"It would be vain to deny that the Democratic party is at this moment in a state of lamentable disorganization. The returns show that well enough. The vote polled for our candidates on Monday was absurdly small. It is true, our friends absolutely made no fight at all. They let the election go by default. For this apathy there were many causes."

And these causes the Courier goes on to explain: such as a want of "organization," (a very rare want with the Democracy;) no issue sufficiently important; and a "system of intimidation and outrage" on the part of the Know-Nothings. A "local prejudice" against the Democratic candidate is mentioned, and the further fact that the Democrats already have a large majority in the Legislature, and the loss or gain of two or three members could make no practical difference.

After all, the Courier comes to the comforting conclusion that the Know-Nothings failed to vote the eight thousand they boasted of at their command, and only polled three thousand eight hundred and thirty votes. It admits that it knows many Democrats who "had been seduced into the Know-Nothing organization;" but hopes "that time and bitter experience will teach them their error."

We merely quote these items of information from the Courier to show the course of politics in the South, and to express our wonder what it is that, in less than two years, has so completely paralyzed the energies of the once triumphant party.

## ALLEGED IMPRISONMENT OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN IN AUSTRIA.

The New York Times has received a long statement of the peculiar hardships experienced by Mr. Martin Speer, formerly of that city, and now under sentence of the Austrian Government for ten years' imprisonment at hard labor. The circumstances of the case are as follows:

Martin Speer is a respectable naturalized citizen of the United States, of German birth, but twenty years a resident of New York, where he has been employed by Messrs. Benjamin Pike & Sons as painter of screens for magic lanterns, in which art he is a superior hand. To perfect himself in a certain branch of his calling he went to Europe in July, 1853, and visited Hungary while there he undertook to make inquiries respecting the nature and connections of a Hungarian refugee named Zagonyi, who had been anxious to form an intimate connexion with his family. For this purpose he bore a letter of introduction from Zagonyi to his pretended connections, the contents of which, as it was written in a language unknown to him, can only be conjectured from the fact that on presenting the letter he was immediately thrown into prison, tried, and condemned to ten years' imprisonment at hard labor, without permission to communicate in any manner with his family and friends, nor with the American Consul. By means of a note dropped upon the road, and found by some one who conveyed it to the American Consul, he contrived to communicate his situation to his family in New York, who now await the result of their appeals to the Austrian Government.

The wife of Mr. Speer having appealed to Secretary Marcy, he has written her the following letter:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, May 25, 1854.

I have received your letter of the 16th instant, on the subject of the arrest and imprisonment of your husband, Martin Speer, at Debreczin, in Hungary, or in some other part of the Austrian dominion, and have caused a copy of it to be forwarded to Mr. Henry R. Jackson, the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States at Messina, with instructions to investigate and report the circumstances of the case to this Department, and to take such measures as those circumstances may warrant to protect your husband in his rights and to effect his release from imprisonment.

I am, madam, respectfully, your obedient servant,  
W. L. MARCY.

The belligerent gentry in the large cities must be taken back considerably at the tone of the President's Message. They probably will be the only people in the country who will find fault with the President for this document. It has in it no smell of gunpowder or plunder.—*Alexandria Gazette.*

SUBVERSIVE BANKS.—An anonymous inquirer in New York requests us to say whether there are such banks in Washington as—

Arlington Bank, Washington.  
Bank of America, Washington.  
Bank of Anacostia, Anacostia.  
Merchants' Exchange Bank, Anacostia.

All that we can say is that we know of no such banks in this city.

GENERAL RAILROAD CONVENTION.—A Railroad Convention was held in Cleveland last week, at which delegates were present from thirty-five different roads, from Massachusetts to the Mississippi. Much discussion took place, and a committee was appointed to prepare a statement of facts setting forth the position of the general railroad interest in the United States, and stating reasons why higher rates should be obtained for the transportation of passengers, mails, and freight.

IMPROVEMENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA.—The project of constructing a ship canal for the purpose of uniting Albemarle sound and Elizabeth river has been revived in Southeastern Virginia, and some of the papers state that there is now a prospect that the work will be completed. Surveys have been made, and it is found that a canal only five miles in length will connect Albemarle and Currituck sounds; thence the North Landing river affords navigation to North Landing, in Virginia, from whence another canal, seven miles long, will unite that point with the Elizabeth river, near Norfolk.

MR. PEABODY.—The New York Evening Post says of this esteemed and eminent American Banker in London: "Mr. Peabody is a gentleman of the most kind and benevolent character, distinguished by liberalities which have always been as judiciously bestowed as the impulse from which they flowed was generous and noble. He is on the best terms with his countrymen in England, to whom he owes no occasion of rendering services."

MR. PEABODY has endeavored himself to his native town of Danvers by founding the "Peabody Institute," which was recently dedicated, and is now in the full tide of successful operation. This noble charity is destined to prove a blessing of incalculable value to his townsmen of the present and succeeding generations.—*Boston Courier.*

RETURN OF IMMIGRANTS TO EUROPE.—The New York Courier furnishes a table showing that four of the large shipping houses of that city have conveyed to Europe from the 1st of May to the 15th of November 8,707 returning immigrants. This does not include the shipments of one or two other houses, nor those that have gone back from other ports. Probably the total immigration of this kind during the period specified numbers 12,000. The increased demand in Europe for mechanics and the growing difficulty of their obtaining employment in this country, the disappointment of too sanguine expectations, and the disgust of some with the Know-Nothing movement are the causes to which are attributed this ebb in the tide of emigration. Others, however, who have accumulated small fortunes return to settle in their own country, and still a large number go back to bring out the families. But the immigration so far preponderates over the emigration that this backward movement in the foreign population is scarcely of sufficient extent to be appreciated except through an examination of the figures that show its existence.

Capt. ROBERT BURNETT died at his house in Orange county, New York, on the 23rd ultimo. He was born on the 22d of February, 1762, and was at his death 92 years eight months and eight days old. Captain Burnett was appointed a lieutenant in the Regiment of Artillery in the service of the United States, commanded by Colonel John Lamb, on the 29th day of June, 1781, being then only 19 years of age, and continued in the service during the war. He was esteemed as a brave and efficient officer, and when the American army marched into New York, at the evacuation of the city by the British troops, he was appointed commanding the American Guard, which relieved the British rear guard stationed in the Bowery.

## FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 7, 1854.  
The Message has given satisfaction in consequence of the absence of all irritating language as regards our foreign relations and the general moderation of its tone on that subject. There is, however, more meant in it than the observations respecting European nations interfering with the general affairs of this continent than meets the eye; for I can tell you (and I say it advisedly) that the Greytown affair has produced an unpleasant state of affairs, or at least of feeling, in Great Britain. Mr. MARCY, in his communications to London, has assumed the most ultra responsibility in justifying that affair, which has caused instructions to be issued to the British admiral on the West India station which may lead to unfortunate results, and certainly will do so if there is an attempt on our part to play over the same game.

Great Britain, there is no doubt, is anxiously desirous to avoid any trouble or contest with us, not only in consequence of the present situation of European affairs and the war in the East, but also for other and obvious reasons connected with her commercial and financial relations with the United States, which in every way are of such vast not to say vital importance to her. She will, therefore, if she possibly can do so with honor, avoid any collision; but our statesmen have read her history and studied the character of her Government and people to but little purpose if they think they can with impunity touch her national pride or honor. In such a case neither the sovereign nor the people would hesitate to dare any consequences, or to meet any responsibility or results, in resenting an attack on or insult to either, and would not only defy, but if necessary actually fight "a world in arms." The Greytown affair is regarded somewhat in the light I allude to in Great Britain, and there is, to say the least of it, a very sore feeling on the subject, which for the present will probably end in merely taking the necessary measures, as already alluded to, that nothing of the kind shall be again done with impunity. If it is, I fear it would not result in "a word and a blow," but the blow would come first. I repeat to you that my information on this point is perfectly reliable. Notwithstanding all the President says on the subject, the attack on Greytown is a thing which cannot be justified. There was a great deal of truth in Napoleon's expression "that he who accuses, accuses himself," and the large portion of the message which is devoted to the explanation of the affair is an indirect acknowledgment not only that it required explanation, but also of the weakness of the case.

If the community at Greytown, as has been so frequently alleged by the defenders of the Administration, were a nest of pirates, and not within the pale of legitimate warfare or consideration, how comes it that the Government of the United States has an official representative there, and that he is going, or has gone, again to reside there? Is it the practice of the American Government to recognize piratical communities, by sending officials to reside among them? And do not those who denounce them as pirates see the alternative that they thus saddle on the shoulders of the Administration? We shall gain nothing in any way by disturbing that affair or provoking further discussion. The sooner we let it sink into oblivion the better, and let us hope it will be long, very long, before the nation or the navy are again placed in the same position.

Know-Nothingism, I see, has promptly shown itself in both Houses immediately after the opening of the session. What a wonderful thing "success" is in this world! Look at the denunciations and scurrilousities that was heaped upon them but a few short months since by those presses most devoted to the Administration, and especially by its favorite organ at Washington. To believe these oracles, the whole body were obscure and contemptible, and its members ashamed of being known to belong to the order, and actually alarmed on that point for fear of injuring their personal standing in society, as well as their business employment. To such an extent was this carried by the party in power that we understood here a private edict was issued at Washington to expel at once from employment in the Departments any one known to be a member. But what "a change has come over the spirit of their dream!" Already we see members of Congress rising in their seats and advocating the great doctrine of Know-Nothingism, and a majority of both Houses, as is the fact, are actual members of the order. The probability is that, like Aaron's rod, it will swallow up all the sense of the country, including sectionalism, abolitionism, and secessionism; and, if it will only gulp down all these three, who that has a proper national feeling or a due sense of patriotism will refuse to join in the shout of *Laud Deo?*

MR. SOULÉ, I see, is being handled without gloves in the debate in the House. When such an out and out and consistent Democrat as Mr. LETCHER, of Virginia, declares from his seat that it is an appointment which never should have been made,